

In 2016, the Obama administration set records for “outright denial of access to files, refusing to quickly consider requests described as especially newsworthy, and forcing people to pay for records who had asked the government to waive search and copy fees.”

To top it off, “The government acknowledged when challenged that it had been wrong to initially refuse to turn over all or parts of records in more than one-third of such cases, the highest rate in at least six years.”

We simply cannot continue down this path.

Fortunately, a truly bipartisan and bicameral effort last year resulted in the enactment of the FOIA Improvement Act of 2016. I was proud to be a cosponsor of this important piece of legislation and to have worked closely with my colleagues on the Judiciary Committee, as well as the open government community, in ensuring its passage. It achieves some of the most meaningful and necessary reforms to FOIA in history.

We are already witnessing some of the positive impacts of these reforms.

For example, the National Security Archive, a nonprofit open government advocate, fought for years to achieve the public release of certain historical documents about the Bay of Pigs invasion. But time and again, they were met with legal hurdles put up by the Central Intelligence Agency, CIA.

This past October, however, the CIA released these historically significant documents. In doing so, the CIA’s Chief Historian stated that the Agency is “releasing this draft volume today because recent 2016 changes in the [FOIA] requires us to release some drafts that are responsive to FOIA requests if they are more than 25 years old.”

This is excellent news. It is just one example of the good that can result from bipartisan work toward a common goal for the American people. I look forward to hearing many other such stories of important information finally being made publicly available under FOIA, thanks to these recent reforms.

But we can’t just rest on our laurels. No matter which party is in control of Congress or the White House, continuing oversight of FOIA—and the faithful implementation of its amendments—is essential to ensure the law’s effectiveness as a tool for the public good.

As chairman of the Judiciary Committee, I am proud during this Sunshine Week to join Senators Feinstein, Cornyn, and Leahy in sending letters to the Trump administration to learn more about specific steps taken to carry out the FOIA Improvement Act of 2016 and efforts underway to improve the proactive disclosure of information.

Compliance with both the letter and spirit of FOIA should always be a top priority of any administration, so I look forward to hearing back about progress made.

Before President Trump took office, I stood on this floor and urged him to reverse the secrecy and obstruction that defined the Obama administration’s FOIA track record. Today I reiterate that call.

A new administration provides a new opportunity to get it right.

This Sunshine Week, let’s recommit to working together toward improving open government, fulfilling FOIA’s promise, and ensuring a more informed citizenry.

DISCHARGE PETITION—S.J. RES. 34

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, hereby direct that the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be discharged from further consideration of S.J. Res. 34, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Federal Communications Commission relating to “Protecting the Privacy of Customers of Broadband and Other Telecommunications Services,” and further, that the resolution be placed upon the Legislative Calendar under General Orders.

Jeff Flake, Mike Rounds, Thom Tillis, John Boozman, Todd Young, John Thune, Cory Gardner, Steve Daines, David Perdue, Tim Scott, Dan Sullivan, Mitch McConnell, Thad Cochran, Michael B. Enzi, Dean Heller, John Hoeven, James M. Inhofe, Roger F. Wicker, Bill Cassidy, Patrick J. Toomey, Ron Johnson, Richard C. Shelby, John Cornyn, Orrin Hatch, Shelley Moore Capito, Jerry Moran, Mike Crapo, Rob Portman, Deb Fischer, Pat Roberts.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING JOSEPH “JOE” CELESTINO GALLEGOS

• Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I wish to honor the life of Joseph “Joe” Celestino Gallegos, a beloved leader and constituent from my home State of Colorado. Mr. Gallegos passed away on December 11, 2016, at the age of 60, after a battle with cancer. He was a true visionary and leader in his hometown of San Luis, the oldest town in Colorado, where he was elected to a fourth term as Costilla County commissioner just a few months ago.

Mr. Gallegos was a fifth-generation farmer and rancher with deep ties to the American West. His family property, the Corpus A. Gallegos Ranches, was settled in 1860 and recognized as a “Colorado Centennial Farm” in 1990. The son of educators, Mr. Gallegos spent his youth in Pagosa Junction and Colorado Springs, CO, and in Questa, NM. He spent his weekends, vacations, and summers working the family ranch in San Luis and tending to livestock in the surrounding mountains of the Sangre de Cristo Range.

After graduating from Colorado State University in Fort Collins with a degree in mechanical engineering, Mr. Gallegos became an engineer in the oil

fields. His work took him to Texas, Louisiana, North Dakota, Wyoming, Ireland, and Africa before he returned to San Luis permanently in 1986.

Working with his father on the family ranch, Mr. Gallegos soon became a trailblazing advocate for the land, water, people, and culture of San Luis and Costilla County, working selflessly to preserve the area’s rich local traditions. Mr. Gallegos was one of the founders of the Sangre de Cristo Acequia Association, which protects some of the oldest water rights in the State of Colorado, and his work has inspired younger generations to respect local water rights and acequia conservation. He served on the Costilla County Conservancy Board for 13 years and was also a member and ditch rider of the San Luis People’s Ditch, which holds the oldest water right in Colorado.

Mr. Gallegos was elected as a Costilla County commissioner four times, serving in office for 12 years. He was passionate about creating and sustaining local jobs; rehabilitating infrastructure and historic structures; and supporting veterans, senior citizens, and youth. One of the projects of which he was most proud was the restoration of the old Costilla County courthouse. Built in 1883, it is one of just two intact adobe courthouses in Colorado. Mr. Gallegos also worked to restore the Lobatos Bridge, the southernmost bridge over the Rio Grande River in Colorado, originally built in 1892.

He oversaw the construction of a Health and Human Services complex and a senior citizens’ center; helped create a county Trails, Open Space, and Recreation Program; supported the effort to name State Highway 159 as the Costilla County Veterans Memorial Highway; and developed the Costilla County Biodiesel Project. He also pursued other renewable energy initiatives such as biomass heat for county shops and solar electricity for county buildings.

Outside of his work, Mr. Gallegos also earned a second-degree black belt in martial arts and was gifted at training and riding horses.

Mr. Gallegos was a man whose generosity touched the lives of countless others. Over 500 people attended his funeral service at Centennial High School in San Luis. He is survived by his daughter Patricia Vialpando, her sisters Annmarie Gonzales and Cristina Miers, and their families; his sister Marie Rafaela Gallegos-McCord, his brothers Aquino “Jerry” Gallegos, James “Jimmy” Gallegos, and their families; his niece Elaiza Gallegos; his nephews Adrien and Django Gallegos; and two very special people, Rose Mendoza-Green and her granddaughter Celena.

I join with the people of Costilla County and the San Luis Valley in honoring Mr. Gallegos’s life, and I send my deepest condolences to his family and loved ones.●

TRIBUTE TO ROCKY ERICKSON

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week, I have the distinct honor of recognizing Rocky Erickson for his long run as the voice of Montana sports. When traveling along the many roads in Big Sky Country or stopping in at a local watering hole for a bite to eat, if you are in earshot of a radio and that radio is tuned to local sports, there is a good chance that Rocky is on the other end of the broadcast.

Rocky grew up on his family's wheat farm in the small McCone County community of Vida. After high school, he studied telecommunications at Liberty University in Lynchburg, VA. Shortly after completing his degree, Rocky returned to eastern Montana and began to provide Montana sports fans with high quality commentary. Rocky's distinguished broadcasting career began in the early 1980s and continues today. This past weekend, he was calling the play by play for the Montana High School State Basketball Championship tournament games. Rocky's Montana sports program is broadcast daily on 40 stations, and he has been recognized by his peers as the "Montana Sportscaster of the Year" on nine separate occasions. The native son of Vida, population 70, has gone on to do great things within his industry. His broadcasts are sincerely appreciated by sports fans across Montana.

Attending a Montana sporting event helps one appreciate how valued and unifying local sports can be to our communities. Rocky has shared these treasured experiences with many Montanans by giving his audience a rich texture and personal touch in each broadcast. Thank you, Rocky, for your outstanding work, and I hope to hear you again soon.●

HONOREES OF THE 28TH ANNUAL
MAINE WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME

• Mr. KING. Mr. President, today I wish to honor two exceptional women, Dr. Ann Koch Schonberger and the late Clara Swan, who are the new inductees to the Maine Women's Hall of Fame. Ann and Clara have made a vital impact on the lives of women in their communities and across the State of Maine. We celebrate their dedication to improving the lives of women in Maine.

Dr. Ann Koch Schonberger, from Bangor spent more than 20 years as the director of the women's studies program at the University of Maine and now serves as faculty emerita, focusing on women's, gender, and sexuality studies. Ann also spent many years as a mathematics professor. Ann has published numerous papers and presented at dozens of conferences on her research and experiences on the intersection between STEM careers and gender. She has also spent countless hours volunteering at the Spruce Run Womancare Alliance, helping women heal from domestic abuse and other forms of violence. Ann strives to bring

to Maine the Spruce Run mantra of "imagining communities without isolation, violence, abuse and fear."

The late Clara Swan was born in Princeton, ME, and spent her life serving as an educator, administrator, and coach. Clara touched the lives of thousands of students during her 30-plus years at the Husson University campus in Bangor. Clara herself was a graduate of the school, known as the Maine School of Commerce when she graduated in 1933. She returned to Husson in 1939, and spent 34 years as a professor and administrator. She was also a women's basketball coach for 19 years, amassing a record of 240 wins, 34 losses, and 7 ties, which included two undefeated seasons. Clara's legacy will not only live on in her former students and players, but at her former institution as well. In 2002, Husson named its fitness center in Clara's honor. She somehow found the time to volunteer at St. Joseph's Hospital, and she delivered meals to seniors' homes as part of the Meals on Wheels program. Clara lived an active life until she died at the age of 104 this past January.

Congratulations to both Ann and Clara for their induction into the Maine Women's Hall of Fame. With this well-earned honor, Ann and Clara join the ranks of Senator Margaret Chase Smith, Senator Olympia Snowe, and Senator Susan Collins, remarkable women who have inspired women in Maine and across the country. Maine is lucky to benefit from such outstanding leaders and pioneers for women in higher education. I thank Ann and Clara for their service and their many contributions to the women and communities of our State.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:06 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that pursuant to 36 U.S.C. 2302, and the order of the House of January 3, 2017, the Speaker appoints the following Members of the House of Representatives to the United States Holocaust Memorial Council: Mr. DEUTCH of Florida and Mr. SCHNEIDER of Illinois.

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following joint resolution was discharged by petition, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 802(c), and placed on the calendar:

S.J. Res. 34. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Federal Communications Commission relating to "Protecting the Privacy of Customers of Broadband and Other Telecommunications Services".

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER
COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-1015. A communication from the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Exemptions for Security-Based Swaps" (RIN3235-AL17) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 10, 2017; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1016. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Iran as declared in Executive Order 12957 of March 15, 1995; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1017. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Somalia that was declared in Executive Order 13536 on April 12, 2010; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1018. A communication from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the export to the People's Republic of China of items not detrimental to the U.S. space launch industry; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1019. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; California; California Mobile Source Regulations" (FRL No. 9959-00-Region 9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 10, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1020. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; District of Columbia; Update to Materials Incorporated by Reference" (FRL No. 9955-98-Region 3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 10, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1021. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval and Designation of Areas; KY; Redesignation of the Campbell County, 2010 1-Hour SO₂ Nonattainment Area to Attainment" (FRL No. 9959-10-Region 4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 10, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1022. A communication from the Attorney, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Steel Import Monitoring and Analysis System" (RIN0625-AB09) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 9, 2017; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1023. A communication from the General Counsel, Office of the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Inspector General of the Intelligence Community received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 9, 2017; to the Select Committee on Intelligence.

EC-1024. A communication from the Acting Chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the progress made in licensing and constructing the Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.